Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A synthesized oligourea comprising a basic-arginine rich region of Tat.

2. (Original) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to Tar RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 1 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

5. (Previously presented) A synthesized oligourea comprising the sequence disclosed in Figure 1A.

6. (Cancelled) A synthesized oligourea comprising the structure disclosed in Figure 1B.

7. (Original) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 5 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the oligourea of claim 5 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of the Tat to TAR RNA.

10. (Cancelled) A method of inhibiting the binding of Tat protein to TAR RNA comprising introducing the oligourea of claim 6 into a cellular environment wherein the inhibition is sought to occur.

11. (Cancelled) The method of claim 10 wherein the cellular environment is one infected by the HIV-1.

12. (Cancelled) The method of claim 11 wherein the oligourea of claim 1 binds to the TAR RNA of HIV-1, thereby limiting the binding of Tat to TAR RNA.

13. (Cancelled) A composition that has a high and specific binding affinity for a nucleic acid, comprising oligourea.

14. (Cancelled) The composition of claim 13, wherein the oligourea additionally has amino acid side-chains incorporated at the R_1 and R_2 positions of the chemical structure in Figure 1B.

15. (Cancelled) The composition of claim 14, wherein the amino acid side chains correspond in sequence to those of a nucleic acid-binding protein.

16. (Currently amended) ~~The~~ A composition ~~of claim 15~~ comprising oligourea, wherein the oligourea additionally has amino acid side chains which correspond to the basic-arginine rich region of the Tat protein.

17. (Original) The composition of claim 16, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to residues 48 - 57 of the Tat protein.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 17, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to SEQ ID NO: 1.

19. (Original) The composition of claim 18, wherein the amino acid side-chains correspond to the SEQ ID NO: 1 with a L-Tyr amino acid at the carboxyl-terminus.

20. (Cancelled) A method of inhibiting a protein-nucleic acid interaction, comprising introducing the composition of claim 13.

21. (Cancelled) The method of claim 20, wherein the composition of claim 13 is introduced into a human patient.

22. (Cancelled) The method of claim 21, wherein the composition of claim 16 is introduced to a human patient infected by the HIV-1 virus.

23. (Cancelled) The method of claim 20, wherein the composition of claim 13 is introduced into an isolated cell.

24. (Cancelled) A kit comprising the composition of claim 13 in a container.

25. (Cancelled) A kit, comprising the composition of claim 13 in a container and instructions to carry out the method of claim 20.

26. (Cancelled) A composition of claim 13, which binds to nucleic acids, which has a disassociation constant (K_D) less or equal to 0.70 μM.

27. (New) The oligourea of claim 1, wherein the oligourea corresponds to the structure of Figure 1B, wherein R_1 and R_2 each individually represent amino acid side chains which correspond to the basic-arginine rich region of the Tat protein.

28. (New) The composition of claim 16 wherein the oligourea corresponds to the chemical structure of Figure 1B, wherein R_1 and R_2 represent said amino acid side chains.